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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 67: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/37/174):

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (A/37/21)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/37/446)

(c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (A/37/453)

AGENDA ITEM 62: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued):

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/37/20)

(b) SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE:

(i) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/37/46)

(ii) REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.101/11)

AGENDA ITEM 63: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/37/20 and A/SPC/37/L.5)

AGENDA ITEM 131: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY SPACE OBJECTS (continued) (A/37/141)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/SPC/37/WG.1/WP.1 containing a working paper pertaining to item 67, "Questions Relating to Information", which had been submitted by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of 77. He also announced that he would convene the first meeting of the Working Group the following week.

2. Mr. LICHENSTEIN (United States of America) said that, before dealing with the items before the Committee, his delegation considered it necessary to reply to the statement made several days before by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic who had attempted to divert attention from the items on the agenda by engaging in a predictable exegesis on alleged United States efforts to turn outer space into an East/West battleground. That scarcely reflected a serious effort to focus on what united rather than divided countries.

3. The Byelorussian delegation's statement had been based almost entirely on some recent articles in The New York Times, a distinguished United States newspaper which, unlike the newspapers to which the Byelorussian representative was doubtless

(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

accustomed, was not a government mouthpiece. The quotation had been based, morever, on a systematic misreading of the The New York Times articles which had described, in great but not necessarily accurate detail, United States research and development efforts to explore the possible or even potential uses of outer space for weaponry and warfare. Those efforts were indeed under way in order address the Soviet Union's unique status of being the only country in the world which had an operational anti-satellite weapons system. That too had been made clear in the articles of The New York Times, but the Byelorussian representative had, of course, omitted that in his statement. It would be utterly irresponsible on the part of the United States to fail to keep pace with basic research in that area so long as there were excellent reasons to believe that such efforts were intensive priority concerns of another Member State. It was his Government's fervent wish that all without exception might one day direct their creative enterprise to the peaceful uses of outer space.

4. His delegation valued the highly constructive role played by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its tradition of consensus. Consensus was the only realistic and practical way to proceed and neither at the Conference nor in the General Assembly had the effort been made to adopt substantive documents on outer-space matters which did not have the consent not only of all geographical groups but also of the space-going countries. It would be a grave mistake for the General Assembly to depart from that practice and, for example, to adopt by a majority vote a set of principles on such a subject as principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

5. For the United States 1982 had been a very productive year in outer-space activities, in which it had worked with a wide array of international partners in areas such as space transport, land remote sensing, space exploration and satellite-aided search and rescue. The participation of the United States in UNISPACE-82 had also been a highlight.

6. With regard to space transport, it was of special note to report that the United States space shuttle Columbia had successfully completed its test phase with its fourth flight in July. The first operational mission of the shuttle as a reuseable space transport system, scheduled for 11 to 16 November, heralded a new era. It was particularly appropriate that one of the two satellites which the space shuttle would place in orbit during that flight would be the Canadian TELESAT communications satellite in view of the important contribution which Canada was making to the shuttle programme.

7. In 1983 five shuttle missions would be carried out carrying several satellites and experiments for United States and foreign users and it was noteworthy that the first flight of Spacelab aboard the shuttle was scheduled for September 1983. That Spacelab-I mission would include almost 70 experiments to be conducted by United States and European investigators and would mark the fruition of the largest international co-operative space effort carried out to date. That co-operative project would enable 10 countries of the European Space Agency to gain first-hand experience in building major facilities for man's use of space. Beginning in 1984, a liberalized policy for the use of the space shuttle would enable it to be used by United States and foreign payload customers.

(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

8. The United States LANDSAT programme had reached a new threshold of capability with the launching, on 23 July 1982 of LANDSAT-4 and with the efficient operation of its advanced instruments - a major milestone in land remote sensing from space. Like its three predecessors, LANDSAT-4 would provide to all interested parties, on a non-restrictive basis, vast amounts of data for use in the management of the earth's resources and in understanding the earth and its processes. A dozen foreign ground stations would continue to participate in that programme in both developed and developing countries.

9. In the area of planetary exploration, Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to encounter Jupiter, had completed 10 years in space in March 1982. It was functioning well and was now studying the behaviour of the sun's atmosphere. It would have left the solar system by June 1983.

10. The experiments carried out during the Solar Maximum Mission (SMM) had enabled scientists to expand man's knowledge of the sun and its environment and, although malfunctions were currently constraining the amount of data returned from the SMM spacecraft, there were plans to use the space shuttle to perform an in-orbit repair in 1984.

11. COSPAS-SARSAT, a project in which the United States, Canada, France and the USSR were co-operating in the use of satellite communications in search and rescue activities, had been used recently in a dramatic rescue mission in the north of Canada which would not have been possible without satellite technology. That demonstration project could lay the groundwork for an international search and rescue system.

12. The United States delegation welcomed the widespread acceptance of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, which had proved its worth in the one major incident that had occurred during the past decade. It believed that there was no need for a revision of the Convention at the present time.

13. At UNISPACE-82, the United States delegation had announced a series of initiatives in the area of space science and technology concerning which it would report in greater detail at the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in February 1983. The United States emphasis at the Conference had been on the peaceful uses of outer space, the vital role of the private sector in the United States space programme and the importance of continued international co-operation to the success of the United States programmes.

14. In his message to UNISPACE-82, President Ronald Reagan had expressed the pleasure of the United States at participating in that historic Conference in the following terms: "This Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space provides leaders from around the globe with an unprecedented opportunity to chart a course for greater co-operation among nations in exploring mankind's last and endless frontier. Let us resolve to work togeter to ensure that the benefits of space continue to contribute to a bright and

(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

peaceful future on earth. And let us also chart new pathways to the stars to serve as avenues of peaceful exploration and adventure for our generation and generations to come".

15. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that his country, as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as an equatorial State, was particularly interested in all matters concerning the use of space to assist developing countries and was concerned at the trend towards the use of space technology for military purposes.

16. Progress had been made in Ecuador in various space applications. The Cotopaxi satellite tracking station had been adapted to serve as a centre for receiving and processing satellite information for the subregion, and the Centre for Integrated Surveys of Natural Resources by Remote Sensing (CLIRSEN) was currently carrying out a radar mapping survey of an area of 87,000 km^2 to identify zones potentially rich in minerals and hydrocarbons.

17. With respect to the Vienna Conference, he said that Ecuador had concurred in the conclusions of the UNISPACE-82, which included the recognition of the position of developing countries, particularly the equatorial countries owing to their geographical location with respect to the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource whose planning and regulation should be sui generis, as was the orbit, in order for it to be used economically and efficiently, as was stated in paragraphs 277, 279 and 281 of the Conference's report.

18. It was gratifying to note that the legal aspects had also been considered as the developing countries wished, and accordingly, the report of the Conference (A/CONF.101/10) stated that technical and scientific development should go hand in hand with the development of legal procedures and instruments. Also noteworthy was the united and contemporary position of the Group of 77, which had made clear at Vienna the aspirations of three quarters of mankind. It should further be stressed that the views of the equatorial countries had been reflected in the statements made by their national representatives and in the frequent references made to the conclusions of the Second Meeting of Equatorial Countries on the Geostationary Orbit, held at Quito from 26 to 28 April 1982, at which the participants had considered the universal necessity of preserving outer space as an area of peace and had discussed, inter alia, the historic resolutions 2692 (XXV) and 3281 (XXIX) of the General Assembly.

19. Ecuador believed that a positive step had been taken in recognizing that the geostationary orbit, whose physical nature and technical attributes were unique and corresponded to phenomena which occurred solely on the earth's equator, was a limited and unique natural resource and that its present utilization, based on the curious arrangement "first come, first served", could bring about its swift saturation. That was why the rational, effective and optimal utilization of the geostationary orbit was necessary and should take account of the legitimate rights of the equatorial States and guarantee equitable access to the orbit through legal regulation and technical planning.

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

20. His delegation believed that the following conclusions of the Quito meeting were relevant to the topics currently under discussion: (1) the international legal régime for the utilization of the geostationary orbit was aimed at protecting the interests of all countries, particularly the requirements of developing countries and the legitimate rights of the equatorial countries; (2) the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource, and therefore its saturation and its monopolization or inequitable use by a few countries should be avoided; (3) the positioning of the device in the segment of the geostationary orbit of an equatorial State required the prior and express authorization of that State and devices used for radio communications would be treated as fixed stations; (4) the equatorial State had preservation rights, in the relevant segment of the geostationary orbit positioned over its territory, for purposes of conserving and utilizing the orbit, but the innocent passage of any space object across the segment of the geostationary orbit over an equatorial State should be permissible; (5) the geostationary orbit should not be used for military or aggressive purposes, and international co-operation should promote its peaceful applications; (6) the equatorial States and other States would co-operate on a global basis, directly or through the competent organizations, to promote the rational and efficient utilization of the geostationary orbit.

21. Ecuador had drawn to the attention of the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees the growing satellite congestion in the geostationary orbit and the need to remove "space garbage", which should be the responsibility of those who placed it there.

22. Ecuador had a keen interest in the progress of remote sensing but insisted on the right of the sensed country to be consulted in advance before such activities were carried out and also on its full right to obtain free of charge the results of remote sensing and to be consulted before the results were handed over to third parties or negotiated with them. Hence Ecuador supported the draft resolution on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, which included the duty of prior consultation and the right to request any broadcasting or receiving State for consultations regarding its activities in international direct television broadcasting. Ecuador was a staunch supporter of the freedom of information but freedom could not be taken to mean using satellites to saturate subjacent captive audiences, leaving them the sole option of turning off the receiver.

23. Lastly, Ecuador believed that the United Nations must be the depositary of the results of remote sensing, that it must regulate discrepancies and promote the benefits of scientific discoveries and their technological applications so as, in turn, to foster development, particularly for the good of poor nations.

24. Mr. JAMES (Australia) said that in view of the fact that the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were adopted by consensus, its members had reason to be proud of some of its achievements. Australia supported its procedures but that did not mean that it was content with the rate of progress, and it associated itself with the calls made by previous speakers for a greater political will within that Committee to meet the challenge of its mandate.

25. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had made specific recommendations aimed at a wider and more equitable enjoyment of the benefits to be derived from space technology. As the Secretary-General of the Conference had stated, the introduction of space technology should not be cause for the further widening of disparities or for increased dependence between countries, but should provide a stimulus to help the many developing countries which did not have adequate access to space technology. The Conference had stressed the record of achievement by international technical agencies as well as COPUOS itself acting multilaterally. At the same time, co-operation carried out bilaterally or between smaller groups of countries had also been important. In that regard, Australia had co-operated with the United States and other countries in the use of various space tracking facilities in Australia and was scheduled to launch its domestic communications satellite on one of the next journeys of the Space Shuttle. It supported the decision taken at the Conference to increase the resources available to the expert on space applications and would also be watching with great interest the preparation of the technical register agreed upon. It was essential to ensure adequate follow-up to the Conference and the proper place for that follow-up was COPUOS.

26. Australia's contribution to the peaceful use of outer space was important from a national viewpoint. Its position encompassed that of both developed and developing countries. Australia had a relatively small population living in widely scattered communities and was distant from its neighbours. Its need to provide a basic network of communications was one it shared with many developing countries, and it would like to share its experiences with developing countries to their mutual benefit. It was not a major space Power but it hoped that its own facilities could be put to effective use through international collaboration. It had co-operated in the United States space programme, intended to participate with Canada and the United States in STARLAB and was a member of INTELSAT. It was in the process of acquiring a domestic satellite communication system called AUSSAT. Since the beginning of the LANDSAT programme, it had used satellite remote sensing data, particularly in the management of agriculture, forestry and land resources, the exploration of mineral resources, cartography, the management of marine and fresh water resources and conservation planning.

27. While the role of the General Assembly, COPUOS and UNISPACE-82 was vital, many of the detailed aspects of outer space were more properly handled by the relevant specialized agencies such as ITU. Australia was convinced that there had to be co-operation with the international community in the development of outer space but that at the same time bilateral co-operation could be most rewarding.

28. Mr. KULAWIEC (Czechoslovakia) said that as a result of the work of COPUOS notable progress had been made in the space age which had begun 25 years earlier with the launching of the first artificial satellite by the Soviet Union. The report of that Committee made it clear that some technological and scientific problems had been solved, that there had been co-operation for the benefits of all States and that principles of international law had been laid down. For its part, the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had provided a solid foundation for co-operation among States.

29. Czechoslovakia had been making contributions to space progress since 1978. As part of the INTERCOSMOS programme, a Czechoslovak had been a member of the first international crew in outer space. Thanks to close co-operation with Soviet scientists, the first artificial satellite built by Czechoslovakia had been put into orbit. In the INTERCOSMOS programme, Czechoslovak experts had participated in remote sensing particularly in connection with environmental protection, space meteorology, research in space biology and medicine and the manufacture of space instruments. His Government attached great importance to co-operation between States with different political systems because it believed that all States had something valuable to contribute to space technology. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had emphasized the fact that the extension of the arms race to outer space was inadmissible. There was a well-known risk that outer space would be militarized. That risk had recently grown, despite legal instruments prohibiting nuclear weapons and testing in outer space. His delegation fully supported the recommendations made in that respect by the Conference and stood ready to co-operate with other States in implementing them.

30. Nevertheless, a few weeks after the end of the Conference, the United States Department of Defense had established a new special space command. Furthermore, information had been published on funds the United States had allocated for military operations in space and on its reduction of funds for exploration for peaceful uses. That clearly signalled an intent to destabilize the international situation and achieve United States military supremacy. For that reason, Czechoslovakia endorsed the idea of activating the negotiations aiming at an international agreement prohibiting the deployment of all military artifacts and weapons in outer space; and in that connection the proposals of the Soviet Union should be studied.

31. As to the establishment of principles governing remote sensing, he reiterated the need for international norms guaranteeing the security of States in whose territories such operations took place. Any agreements adopted in that matter would contribute to peace and co-operation among all countries. Outer space should be defined as rapidly as possible because that would help to solve the problem of its delimitation. Setting up an ad hoc working group for that purpose within the Legal Sub-Committee could be useful.

32. With regard to the draft resolution on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting (A/SPC/37/L.5), the sovereign rights of all

(Mr. Kulawiec, Czechoslovakia)

States had to be respected and there must be no interference in their internal affairs. His delegation was therefore supporting the draft resolution as an important step towards the preparation of an international convention.

33. Mr. WARREN (Canada) said that in September Canada had celebrated 20 years of space activity: its first satellite, the scientific satellite Alouette I, had been launched in 1962. Since then, Canada had established the world's first domestic geostationary satellite system. The first ANIK-D satellite had been launched in late August of 1982 and ANIK-C would be launched in a few weeks' time. The ANIK system had given hundreds of rural and remote communities access to the telephone and television, provided television for households and communities using relatively inexpensive antennas and receivers, and tele-health and tele-education services for remote communities. The Canadarm, a remote manipulator system used with the space shuttle, had flown twice with success. Canada had also participated in the SARSAT search and rescue system, which had already proved effective.

34. It was for the members of the Committee to ensure that the momentum generated by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was not lost. International co-operation was essential in space activity and his country supported the consensus reached at the Conference. Canada viewed with concern the prospect of the extension of the arms race to outer space and urged that measures should be adopted to ensure that that did not occur.

35. Progress on the agenda items before the Committee had been minimal. He was concerned that the Legal Sub-Committee had become less productive in recent years and had had dificulty in moving from general provisions to the regulation of particular activities or applications. On some questions, such as direct broadcasting satellites or the regulation of the geostationary satellite orbit, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was taking effective action.

36. There had been few developments in remote sensing. The catalogue of applications was proving to be a useful document but, for it to be fully effective, States would have to contribute their experience on a continuing basis. The debate on the classification and dissemination of data and on legal principles continued to make little progress, and attention should perhaps be turned to other aspects of remote sensing where the efforts of the international community could be more productive.

37. Some progress was being made on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The activity of the Committee was now focused on a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee which was considering the possibility of supplementing the rules of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. He looked forward to a constructive exchange of views and to considerable progress being made in that field in the coming year.

38. Regarding the principles governing direct broadcasting satellites, his delegation was concerned at the failure to achieve a consensus after so many years of effort. In April 1981 in the Legal Sub-Committee, Canada had sponsored a draft resolution similar to the one in document A/SPC/37/L.5, but had not sponsored

(Mr. Warren, Canada)

the latter because it did not include some formulations which had been put forward since April 1981. Efforts must be made to find formulations which would help in achieving a consensus. Negotiations were about to take place among the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in a final attempt to reach agreement: the credibility of the Legal Sub-Committee as an effective negotiating forum could be at stake. The operating and working methods of the Committee and its two Sub-Committees should be re-examined in order to ensure that time and resources were being used as efficiently as possible.

39. With regard to the report of the Second UNISPACE Conference, Canada was satisfied with the outcome. The Conference had provided a unique and valuable opportunity for bringing together policy-makers and scientists to discuss how to make the best use of space technology. COPUOS would now be called upon to implement the results of the Conference, assess the recommendations concerning studies and other activities to be undertaken, and establish priorities which reflected the needs of Member States. Considerable effort would be required to develop a realistic programme of work.

40. Mr. AKIN (Turkey) said that the spectacular development of space exploration in the past two decades had increased both the prospects for the peaceful use of outer space and the complexity and urgency of the issues related to it. The nature of the issues before the Committee confirmed the need for international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. Turkey welcomed and fully supported all constructive efforts on outer space issues within the United Nations system. It also appreciated the positive role played by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and believed that, given the political will, understanding and co-operation of Member States, the Committee would be even more effective.

41. Turning to the elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, he reiterated his delegation's view that in formulating any set of rules, legal or otherwise, special consideration should be given to the interests and requirements of developing countries. To ensure the widest accession to and implementation of a convention on the matter, efforts must be continued on the basis of a consensus. He trusted that it would be possible to adopt by consensus the principles set forth in draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5.

42. On the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, further studies must be made to assess the different dimensions of the gift of technology and the possibility of a world-wide remote sensing system. Any regulations on remote sensing should recognize the legitimate and sovereign rights of the States concerned, inter alia, to prior notification of and approval by the sensed State of remote sensing over its territory; to direct access of the sensed State to primary data on a priority basis; and to certain categories of data relating to its territory and to the assurance that natural resources would not be disseminated without the prior approval of the sensed State.

(Mr. Akin, Turkey)

43. The definition of outer space was an issue which required the utmost care and deliberation, since there were no established and appropriate legal norms on the delimitation of outer space. Any just delimitation of outer space must be based on the principle of equity. The position of his delegation remained unchanged on the question of the geostationary orbit, which it regarded as a limited natural resource forming part of the common heritage of mankind, to be used for the benefit of all nations.

44. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been a fruitful demonstration of the spirit of understanding and compromise that should prevail on space questions. Through the exchange of ideas and information UNISPACE-82 had opened up avenues for further exploration and expansion of possibilities for all countries, especially the developing countries, to use space technology for peaceful purposes. The role of the United Nations and its agencies must be strengthened in the peaceful uses of outer space and efforts on space issues should continue on the basis of consensus and with wisdom and realism, particular attention being paid to protecting and promoting the interests of developing countries in mankind's joint efforts concerning outer space.

45. Mr. BOUSHEV (Bulgaria) said that all mankind was interested in finding an adequate and equitable solution to the problem of outer space, as manifested by the growing co-operation among States. The present session coincided with a remarkable event - the 25th anniversary of the start of the space age marked by the launching of the first artificial earth satellite, the Soviet Sputnik. As a result of the intensive development of space activities, outer space had become one of the most important sources of scientific, technological, cultural and general progress in society.

46. Bulgaria had been contributing increasingly to the common efforts of mankind in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Its activities in connection with the Intercosmos and Intersputnik systems were linked with the integration efforts of other countries, mainly the socialist countries. Bulgaria was developing beneficial bilateral relations with the Soviet Union and active co-operation with the other socialist countries under the Intercosmos programme. It had also been pursuing a policy of close co-operation with Cuba, Mongolia, Viet Nam and India and had conducted joint research projects with France, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Greece, Argentina and other countries.

47. Bulgaria valued and participated actively in international co-operation in the exploration of outer space, as such co-operation had increasingly become a definite factor in the maintenance of peace and security on the planet. Without peace, co-operation was impossible. Grave concern had been aroused by the intention of certain militaristic circles to extend the arms race into outer space, thus creating the danger of annihilating mankind itself. During UNISPACE 82, the overwhelming majority of delegations had spoken out against the militarization of space and the stationing of weapons in outer space, which could increase the danger of war dramatically. Bulgaria categorically opposed the militarization of space and strongly supported the proposal of the Soviet Union for the conclusion of

(Mr. Boushev, Bulgaria)

a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. In that connection, the message of greeting which Mr. Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, had addressed to the participants in the Conference had stressed that outer space was a common property of mankind, together with peace, which was the most important prerequisite for the survival of mankind; the exploration and use of outer space must and could serve only the welfare of peoples, the goals of development and social progress, and the maintenance and strengthening of world peace.

48. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that, during the previous 25 years, the development of space science and technology had brought mankind to a stage where their application had become an important tool in the promotion of economic and social development; similar progress had not, however, been made in efforts to find an agreed framework for the management and control of outer space in the interest of all mankind. The report of the Conference had not satisfied the objectives of all participating countries but was nevertheless a compromise text representing the consensus of the international community. The recommendations reflected the desire of space Powers and developing countries alike to co-operate in a constructive manner, and every effort should be made to implement those recommendations. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, speaking in the general debate in the plenary Assembly on 11 October, had said that outer space represented a common heritage of mankind and offered another unique opportunity to explore new frontiers for the benefit of the whole world. The exploration and exploitation of outer space should proceed on the basis of a co-operative effort determined by an international set of binding principles and rules.

49. Remote sensing could play an important role in planning and development, particularly in developing countries. A remote sensing centre had been set up in his country to work out suitable programmes for appropriate applications which, properly utilized, could lead to productive co-operation between developed and developing countries. If, however, remote sensing was not well regulated, it could become an instrument for perpetuating the imbalances inherent in the current world economic structure and for increasing the dependence of the developing countries. There was therefore an urgent need for an agreement on that issue, which should be based on respect for the sovereignty of the sensed State over its national resources, the need for the conclusion of agreements prior to sensing and the dissemination of such data to third parties and the right of the sensed State to access, in a complete and continuous manner, to the information gathered.

50. His delegation attached great importance to the need for an international convention governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Such a convention should reflect the aspirations of the developing world, in order to rectify the current imbalances of one-way flow of information. The use of the medium, however, had the inherent danger for developing countries that programmes broadcast through international co-operation might not be compatible with their needs or realities. All activities relating to such broadcasts should be based on the principles of consultation and agreement between States. The item had been on the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful

(Mr. Irumba, Uganda)

Uses of Outer Space for a long time and it was a matter of regret that no agreement had yet been reached. The draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.5 contained the minimum which should be embodied in such a convention.

51. The unrestricted use of the geostationary orbit and the related radio frequency spectrum by technologically advanced countries had always been a matter of concern. It was not equitable that those who had been the first to use the technology should be able to act with complete freedom, and it was therefore desirable that the United Nations should develop criteria for the more equitable use of the geostationary orbit. UNISPACE 82 had made a recommendation in that connection; account must be taken of the future needs of the developing countries and the special interests of the equatorial countries, which were physically closest to the geostationary orbit. Because of the dangers involved in the uncontrolled use of the orbit, the legal régime envisaged should stipulate the rights of equatorial countries and the legitimate interests of other States. It was necessary to define outer space and to determine the limits of State sovereignty, as well as the right to use the geostationary orbit.

52. There was a need for a co-operative effort in the exploration of outer space for the benefit of the entire world. An essential component of such an effort was the transfer of space technology from the developed to the developing countries. The United Nations had an important role to play in that regard. He, therefore, supported the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division and its expansion into a centre for outer space activities.

53. Such co-operation precluded the promotion of conflicting interests, and he, therefore, supported the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The militarization of outer space constituted an unacceptable extension of the polarization which currently lay at the very foundation of international tension. Since its adoption General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) the United Nations had endeavoured to ensure that the arms race would not be introduced into space. At UNISPACE 82, participants had endeavoured to have the Conference adopt measures to stop the trend towards the militarization of outer space, but the consensus reached did not adequately reflect that intent. It was essential for the General Assembly to reiterate the overwhelming concern of the international community to that effect.

54. Mr. KUBBA (Iraq) said that, for a number of years past, his delegation had given serious consideration to items relating to outer space. His country had been a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since early 1978 and in that capacity had involved itself in the matters with which the Committee was concerned. During the current year, the question of outer space was of particular importance because only a short period had elapsed since UNISPACE 82. He expressed satisfaction at the work which the Conference had accomplished and stressed the importance of the conclusions and recommendations reached. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was the focal point for international co-operation in the field, would benefit greatly from the work performed at UNISPACE 82.

(Mr. Kubba, Iraq)

55. He expressed the hope that international co-operation would become a reality in the field of outer space and that the sovereignty of States and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States would be respected. The use of outer space should conform to the norms of international law, to the Charter of the United Nations and to the treaties which had been adopted on the subject. Competition should be avoided, and the rule of the strong should not prevail. His delegation opposed any military use of outer space, as destruction would be the inevitable result. Reason should prevail over such dangerous trends with a view to avoiding further international tension.

56. On the question of remote sensing, his delegation supported the appeal for the formulation of provisions which would make such activities subject to agreements and to the consent of States. Data of a strategic or military character should not be disseminated or communicated to third countries without the prior consent of the sensed State.

57. Principles applicable to the use of vessels transporting nuclear material should be elaborated. The Secretary-General should be provided with information regarding such ships and procedures established before their launch was authorized. There was also a need to reduce the number of space objects, to make efforts to use the more distant orbit and to reduce radioactivity to a minimum. Furthermore, in the use of the geostationary orbit, the needs of developing countries should be taken into account. With regard to direct television broadcasting, there was a need for regulations which would permit such broadcasting only with the prior consent of the interested States.

58. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary) said that the unfolding of the debate on the peaceful uses of outer space coincided with an important anniversary and was taking place shortly after the convening of an important international conference. Twenty-five years earlier, the Soviet Union had launched into space an artificial satellite, Sputnik I, which had opened new vistas for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The achievements of space technology now formed part of everyday life, because of their applications in various fields. At the same time, various forms of international co-operation had evolved, and, as a result of international co-operation between the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, Hungary had been able to participate in numerous space research programmes. Attention should be drawn to the participation of the first Hungarian cosmonaut in the experiments carried out on board the space station SALYUT-6.

59. His delegation believed, as it had said on many occasions, that the United Nations should play an important role with regard to international co-operation in that area, and that position was confirmed with the assessment of the results obtained by UNISPACE 82. He wished to express his gratitude to the Government of Austria for its excellent organization and its hospitality. The Conference had focused attention on new possibilities offered by space research for scientific and economic progress and for social and cultural life. It had also reflected the desire for the expansion of international co-operation and had emphasized as indispensable prerequisites for the attainment of that goal, the need to improve the international atmosphere and to prevent the spread of the arms race to outer

(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

space. Undoubtedly, it would take some time to determine the ways and means of implementing the recommendations contained in the final document of the Conference, but those recommendations would contribute to the development of international co-operation and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in that field.

60. The continuing deterioration of the international situation did not favour co-operation. The attempts made by the extremist circles of imperialism to step up the arms race and extend it to outer space were a legitimate concern of the whole world. Certain Western Powers had adopted measures that could destroy various forms of co-operation, and, owing to such actions, in several cases, scientific ventures beneficial to all participants had been interrupted for political reasons.

61. His delegation attached paramount importance to the proposal submitted by the Soviet Union at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and now before the First Committee, concerning the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. That proposal, which sought the demilitarization of outer space, was a positive step. The conclusion of such a treaty was an urgent task, because it would offer a guarantee for the utilization of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes.

62. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had done a great deal of work during the past year, and, as a member of that Committee, his country deemed it important for the Committee to continue its active contribution to the solution of the scientific, technical and legal problems relating to space research and to promote the co-ordinating role of the United Nations. It was essential that early agreement should be reached on the legal implications of remote sensing, the definition of outer space and outer space activities. Its position in that regard was well known, and he merely wished to emphasize that his delegation was ready to continue seeking mutually acceptable solutions.

63. The draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.5 and the annexed set of principles were a clear expression of the position held by the majority of nations concerning the principles which should govern the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. Such broadcasting must not encroach on the principle of the sovereignty of States and the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs; accordingly, agreement should be concluded between the States directly interested. Only thus would that media serve friendly relations and better understandings between peoples.

64. Mr. RIVERO (Cuba) said that the phenomena unleashed by space technology, in view of their integrating character and their vast consequences for the economy, culture and education of peoples, went beyond treatment of the subject from a merely technocratic point of view and opened it to social and political debate. That was especially valid when it was realized that there was a virtual monopoly of remote sensing and satellite broadcasting in the hands of giant transnational consortia in a single country. That situation threatened to become worse, as a result of the dual trend towards a growing mass concentration of operative and financial power, determined by an uncontrolled policy of deregulation that was in the process of making outer space a private preserve and managing its resources in

(Mr. Rivero, Cuba)

accordance with the laws of commercial profit and as a result of the stated decision to militarize the cosmos and make it an instrument of bellicose threat for the rest of mankind, whose processes of social change were to be paralysed through terror and coercion.

65. His delegation believed that, at a time when the duty to preserve outer space for peace and the development of the peoples seemed impossible to put off, the announcement that the United States was to begin production of a new generation of nuclear space weapons, the product of computing advances, solid state physics, the laser and telecommunications was deeply distressing. Those intentions had been announced a few weeks after the holding of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the results of which had been hailed as an important contribution for the maintenance of international peace and security. Mankind should do everything in its power to hold in check the possibility that space technology, instead of contributing to the economic and social development of all countries, might add new dimensions to the arms race and exacerbate still further the current deterioration in international relations.

66. Of no less concern to his delegation was the fact that remote sensing, the transmission over a communications line system of information processed in data banks and direct broadcasting of communications by satellite be increasingly transformed into instruments for the imposition on a global scale of the doctrine of the unrestricted so-called "free flow" of data and messages, in disregard of the sovereign principle of previous consent, the open flouting of international conventions, interference with frontiers and the imposition on peoples, primarily the developing peoples, of forms and values defined by the consumer culture. Thus, any attempt at international regulation of flows of messages across frontiers was termed interference and aggression, while direct broadcasting by satellite was regarded as an inalienable and sacred right of the power centres which designed and manufactured the equipment, drew up the data and programmes and had the resources to disseminate them on a global scale.

67. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Soviet Union's historic achievement in putting the first cosmonaut into orbit, his delegation wished to emphasize the importance of the peaceful collaboration taking place within the framework of the "INTERSPUTNIK" programme, in which Cuba was playing an active role, as an example of the use of space for peaceful purposes and the placing of space science in the service of the economic and technological development of the peoples of the third world. Technology was not neutral; without adequate participation and interaction on the part of the international community, computer sciences and space telecommunications, the main instrument of power at the present time, would irreversibly strengthen and deepen the old relationships of dependence. It was the time to decide whether there was a will to preserve identity and sovereignty, the way of nationality and self-determination, or be levelled by the electronics merchants.

68. With regard to agenda item 62, Cuba was in favour of the intensification of multilateral co-operation and the search for untied resources for the putting into practice of concrete co-operation programmes. Cuba defended the principle that the geostationary orbit was an inalienable part of outer space, common to all mankind

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alike, and, accordingly, it strongly opposed any measure or privilege based on resort to force that limited or restricted the universal right of countries to have equitable access to the geostationary orbit and the use of the corresponding frequency spectra. Cuba also supported the convening of the 1983 Regional Radio Conference, at which assignments of frequencies and orbital positions for Latin America would be decided upon.

69. Cuba considered that information obtained through remote sensing by satellites should be supplied to the sensed State free of cost, in decoded and processed form, and that such data should never be distributed to third parties without prior consent. In addition, States which passed information on to other countries or used it for financial speculation on the international market should incur liability.

70. With regard to item 63, Cuba considered it essential to arrive at an international agreement on the basis of proposals submitted by States, accompanied by the adoption of extensive national communication policies geared to the educational and cultural sectors as part of a general strategy for independent development. It was also necessary to assert national rights and demand that the so-called free flow of information should be subordinated to the principles of a genuine interdependence involving direct two-way television broadcasting without any discrimination or infringement of national sovereignty and requiring observance of the principle of prior consent by the transmitting States. International responsibility should also be assigned to States making direct television broadcasts from their territories, and illegal direct television broadcasting should be condemned as an infringement of national sovereignty and of the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between States.

71. Mr. NOWAK (Poland), referring to the importance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first artificial space object, said that Sputnik remained a symbol of the Soviet science and technology contribution and had opened a new era in the peaceful use of outer space. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had highlighted the progress achieved recently in that field. Poland contributed to space activities in accordance with national programmes and within the framework of international co-operation.

72. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the Conference about the possible extension of the arms race into outer space (A/CONF.101/10, para. 13). Three articles published in The New York Times on 17, 18 and 19 October reflected the eagerness of some circles of the American Administration to extend the use of space for military activities and to step up expenditures in that respect. Those efforts could only be assessed as a quest for military supremacy in outer space, carried out simultaneously with the same efforts in other fields. The international community should take the necessary steps to limit the arms race, and the arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union should be resumed as soon as possible. Poland fully endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, inter alia, those concerning the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

(Mr. Nowak, Poland)

73. His delegation appreciated the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two subsidiary organs on the promotion of international co-operation in outer space and what had often been called the extension of the rule of law to outer space. It had been pleased to hear the appreciative words addressed to Ambassador Wyzner on his performance as Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, which would be transmitted to him.

74. The problem of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting was directly linked to the sensitive issue of the principles of freedom of information and sovereignty of States. He was strongly in favour of adopting principles taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all countries.

75. Mr. KOLOSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the United States representative had tried to present the situation as though the United States were being forced to keep pace with the Soviet Union in the military use of outer space. No mention had been made of the fact that the American press was waging a campaign aimed at catching up with the Soviet Union in space preparations and that the United States was in the grip of military hysteria. Not all delegations read Soviet newspapers thoroughly. On 3 June 1982, Pravda had published a statement by President Brezhnev in which he had said: "It is a well known fact that not all the consequences of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century have been beneficial to mankind. Some of them contributed to the death of hundreds of thousands of people, and when the time comes we must do everything possible to ensure that outer space is not turned into a theatre of military confrontation between States. I wish to emphasize once again that outer space can and must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes". In reply, the President of the United States had made a statement on 4 July concerning his country's space policy. The United States national defence space programme included the creation and emplacement of support systems for land forces. They were anti-sputnik systems designed to reduce the threat to the United States and its allies. If the agreement proposed by the Soviet Union to prevent the stationing of weapons in outer space were concluded, no country would feel the need to establish anti-satellite defence systems.

76. Reference had also been made to the success of the COSPAS-SARSAT system in saving lives in northern Canada. He regretted that no mention had been made of the fact that that had been achieved with the collaboration of a Soviet sputnik. When an incident involving a Soviet sputnik had occurred, on a previous occasion in northern Canada, the name of the Soviet Union had been repeated again and again, but when a sputnik had been used to save human lives in the same country and at the same place, that had been hushed up.

77. His delegation did not agree with the remarks made by the representative of Canada concerning voting in the Legal Sub-Committee. The issue on which agreement had not been reached was not a legal one. The trouble had not been the impossiblity of finding a formula but lack of political will and readiness to acknowledge the needs of sovereign States.

78. Mr. HUSSAINI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that the United States representative, in discussing the peaceful uses of outer space, had failed to mention some important points. In the first place, if the United States really wanted a free exchange of information, it should have criticized the Israeli authorities for imposing controls on American television stations with regard to their transmissions of news by satellite, thus preventing the public from seeing what had happened as a result of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon. Secondly, the use of outer space by United States military satellites stationed over Arab territory was a cause of concern. In that connection, Mr. Sharon had sought American co-operation in obtaining military information by satellite. Satellites should be used to show the sufferings of the oppressed peoples of the third world, to present the realities of economic life and the tragic striving of peoples to gain a livelihood and, in addition, to help them to overcome poverty and backwardness. All children had the right to gaze into space and dream, and when United States aircraft dropped bombs they were instruments of destruction depriving children of the right to live in peace.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.